

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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R 210745Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9700

UNCLAS YAOUNDE 3525

FOR CU/AF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CM

SUBJ "AHIDJO-KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS"

1. POST HAS ONCE AGAIN RECEIVED A STRONGLY WORDED DIPLOMATIC NOTE REQUESTING THAT THE "FIVE AHIDJO-KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE TRAINING OF TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS" BE CONTINUED.
2. OUR EARLIER PROPOSAL, TO TRAIN A CAMEROONIAN STUDENT TO PH.D LEVEL WHO WOULD ESTABLISH LOCAL TRAINING, WAS NOT REJECTED, BUT WAS SEEN AS PREMATURE, SINCE STUDIES ARE JUST BEGINNING OF A PROJECTED UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION.
3. IN THE NOTE WE WERE ASKED ""..TO MAKE IT KNOWN TO THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES THAT THE TRANSLATOR/INTERPRETER NEEDS REMAIN THE PRIORITY FOR THE YEARS TO COME AND THAT THE CAMEROONIAN GOVERNMENT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS"". THE SITUATION WAS DESCRIBED AS CRITICAL AND ONE "WHICH VERY SOON RISKS COMPROMISE IN THE OFFICIAL POLICY OF BILINGUALISM" IF SOMETHING IS NOT DONE.
4. AS RESPONSE TO NOTE EMBASSY PLANS REVIEW HISTORY OF PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, FOLLOWING KENNEDY-AHIDJO MEETING IN 1963, EMBASSY PROPOSED AND GURC ACCEPTED TWO ANNUAL REPEAT ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR UNIVERSITY STUDY, ONE FOR OUTSTANDING MALE,

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ONE FOR OUTSTANDING FEMALE CAMEROONIAN, SELECTED BY

BINATIONAL COMMITTEE, WITH GURC PAYING TRAVEL TO U.S. AND WITH U.S. PAYING THE REST. IN 1967 AWARDS WERE SPECIFIED FOR GRADUATE STUDY ONLY. ALSO PRACTICE GREW UP TO USE THESE TWO AWARDS FOR TRANSLATOR/INTERPRETER STUDY, AND IN 1973, FACED WITH GROWING DEMANDS FOR TRANSLATION/INTERPRETING, PRESIDENCY REQUESTED TEN AND WE OFFERED FIVE AWARDS FOR TRANSLATOR/INTERPRETER STUDY. SINCE THEN TWO AWARDS ANNUALLY HAVE BEEN GIVEN FOR TRANSLATING/INTERPRETING. BY OUR COUNT WE HAVE TRAINED THIRTEEN CAMEROONIAN TRANSLATOR/INTERPRETERS OF WHOM NINE WORK AT THE PRESIDENCY, ONE AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ONE AT THE CAMEROONIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. ONE HAS BECOME A CONFIDENTIAL ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT AND WE EXPECT OTHERS TO MOVE UP TO POSITIONS OF GREATER IMPORTANCE.

5. AFTER REVIEW OF ABOVE FACTS, EMBASSY PLANS RE-NEW OUR ANNUAL OFFER OF TWO PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS AS HAS BEEN DONE SINCE 1964, LEAVING IT UP TO GURC WHETHER OR NOT THEY WISH TO USE THE AWARDS FOR TRANSLATOR/INTERPRETER TRAINING. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF THE ABOVE COURSE OF ACTION. MITHOEFER

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